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The PC Chronicle

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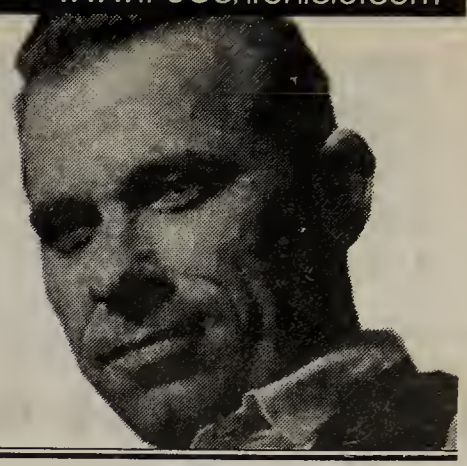
News
Harry Potter makes his way into PUC Book Club
See page 3

Opinion
Racism still prevalent in American society
See page 4

Entertainment
The John Dillinger Museum brings history back to the Region
See page 7



IBM awards PUC in 'Best Practices'

JEN BERG
Staff Writer

IBM has just recently named Purdue Calumet in Best Practices for their student services and major improvements on student enrollment and Web-based technology. David E. Moran, vice president and higher education industry national practice execute of IBM business innovation services, awarded Chancellor James Yackel with a plaque at a news conference last Monday.

"We began thinking of student services and computerizing it five years ago, and wanting to improve student services here at Purdue University Calumet," Yackel said.

The improvements on student enrollment began in February 1999 with the Enrollment Services Center creating an enrollment process so students no longer have to wait in a series of lengthy lines for admission, registering for classes, financial aid and payment. All of these functions now can be conducted at one single location.

"Given that 80 percent of our incoming students are first generation college students, we felt that it was imperative to make the enrollment process as simple and inviting as possible," Leo Bryant, vice chancellor of student services, said.

"We want to take the hassle out of enrolling at Purdue Calumet. At one time for a student to be admitted the student would have to go to four different offices and sometimes back and forth between offices," Beth Pellicciotti, vice chancellor for enrollment management, said.

The Enrollment Services Center is known for their integrated service delivery, which a cross-trained staff is able to help students and families through the enrollment process. The Enrollment Center is also known as the "one-stop shop."

"The concept of a one-stop Enrollment Services Center plus Web-based access to one's personal records work together, ultimately to benefit students," Pellicciotti said.

According to Pellicciotti, the development and introduction of PC STAR last year has enabled students to check and update personal information, financial aid records and pay their tuition through credit card. She said this has really made an impact on student services. By November students can access the students admissions application online. In the fall semester they are working on an automated degree audit available for students.

> **"The concept of a one-stop Enrollment Services Center plus web-based access to one's personal records work together, ultimately to benefit students."**
> Beth Pellicciotti, vice chancellor for enrollment management

"Six-thousand students so far have set up pins with PC STAR, we have a little over 9,000 students on campus and we are moving rapidly so that all students will use PC STAR in their enrollment process," said Pellicciotti.

PUC is one of four universities to receive this year's annual IBM national Best Practices honor. The recognition of this honor is intended to draw attention to organizational "best practices," so that other institutions can learn and benefit from them. PUC presented its Enrollment Services Center model at the IBM Best Practices Conference in August.

The Enrollment Services Center is located in Lawshe-130.

Photo by Jenn McCampbell

From left, Michael Gealt, dean of the school of engineering mathematics and science; David E. Moran, vice president of IBM business innovation services; James Yackel, chancellor of PUC; Leo Bryant, vice chancellor of student service meet to chat after the Award presentation.

Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read

Photo by Jenn McCampbell

Books such as "Catcher in the Rye," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Of Mice and Men" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" have been challenged and banned in some areas throughout time due to subjects they address.

JEN BERG
Staff Writer

The 19th annual Banned Books Week will be celebrated Sept. 23 to 30 with the theme, "Fish in the River of Knowledge." Libraries, bookstores, journalists and others will be joining in celebrating one of democracy's most basic freedoms during Banned Book Week.

"I feel that books shouldn't be banned, we should have a choice to read what we choose. That's the First Amendment," Alice Farrar, a junior majoring in elementary education, said.

> **"I feel that books shouldn't be banned, we should have a choice to read what we choose. That's the First Amendment."**
> Alice Farrar, junior majoring in elementary education

Across the nation many bookstores and libraries will offer special displays and events featuring works that have been targets of banning. The Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. This event reminds Americans not to take democratic freedom for grated. Each year the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom receives hundreds of reports on books and other materials that are "challenged" or asked to be removed from school or library shelves.

"In elementary grades you have to be careful with books, it's the same as the Internet. We don't want the children to access some sites that parents may object to. Adults have a choice to make their own evaluations of books," Sheila Rezak, associate reference librarian at PUC, said.

The "Most Challenged" titles include the popular "Harry Potter" series of fantasy books for children by J.K. Rowling. The series drew complaints from parents and others who believe the books promote witchcraft to children. Other "Most Challenged" titles include, "The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain for its use of language, particularly references to race; "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson, for sexual content and offensive language and "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou for the description of rape she suffered as a child.

Books that have recently been taken off the list this year are "Goosebumps" and "Fear Street," both series by R.L. Stine, which were challenged for being too frightening for young people and depicting occult or Satanic themes.

There is a difference between a challenged and a banned book. Challenging a book is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based upon the objections of a person or group. A ban is the removal of those materials. Books are usually challenged with the best intentions – to protect others, usually children from difficult ideas and information.

Other information about Banned Books Week is found on their web site located at http://www.ala.org/bbooks/. On this site they list information such as the 100 most frequently challenged books of the decade, as well as lists of recently banned books and books in danger of becoming banned.

The 12th annual PUC Job Fair will be held on Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the PER Building

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

New electronic resources, services available in campus library (Part 2 of 2)

Last week's Administration Update concluded with information about our campus Library's collection of electronic journals.

This week, we want to share with you news about the Library's collection of electronic books (e-books).

One can search the contents of two collections of e-books available via the Library's membership in netLibrary. Much like browsing the shelves in a library, you may look at the contents electronically.

The Library collection contains recent e-book titles selected by a consortium of academic libraries in Indiana that are available for electronic borrowing...and automatic return once the loan period expires. The public collection is an extensive collection of 4,000 titles in the public domain that were enhanced to integrate them into the net-Library collections and to provide better online searching.

To check out an e-book in the Library collection, first create a user account. This account must be created on a computer located on our campus (and within the Calumet IP address range).

Remember that this is technology. . .

. . . so you must remember your login and password. Once you have created your account, you can use the *netLibrary collections from any computer anywhere by clicking on the* netLibrary logo.

The netLibrary logo/link is located on the Library's Web site: http://library.calumet.purdue.edu

Rocket e-book reader devices

The Library also has a collection of electronic books available on Rocket e-book reader devices. Look for the call number "Rocket 1," "Rocket 2," etc. and check out these electronic reading devices at the Circulation Services desk (where they are shelved when they're not circulating).

—Compiled by Director of Library Services Kathryn Carpenter and Technical Services Librarian Rebecca Stankowski

CAMPUS CRIME WATCH

Purdue Calumet crime statistics are reported to the federal government and publishedperiodically in this column. Recent months' reported campus crimes are as follows:

CATEGORY	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Personal Property Theft	1	1	1	0	1	3
Amount of Loss	$550	$397	$ 26.65	0	$400	$ 95
University Property Theft	0	0	1	2	0	1
Amount of Loss	0	0	$10	$1100	0	$1600
Vehicle Thefts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	*4
RECOVERIES MADE	0	0	0	0	0	0

***NOTE:**

In the past when something was taken from an office, lab or classroom, the incident was classified as a theft. According to the Uniform Crime Reporting Act, those incidents now must be classified as burglaries.

At a glance

around campus

Andrew Horning to speak at PUC

Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Andrew Horning will be discussing issues of residents of Northwest Indiana as well as students of PUC on Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Gyte-107.

The event will be sponsored by SGA.

Society for Human Resource Management announces fall 2000 meetings

The Society for Human Resources Management's meeting for the fall 2000 semester is as follows: Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5. All meeting will be at 5 p.m. and in Gyte-108.

If you are unable to attend, but still wish to participate, e-mail Tony Hobson at pucshrmpres@yahoo.com

Student Support Services looking for readers

Student Support Services is looking for readers for the fall 2000 semester.

This job allows readers to get paid for reading textbooks on tape for students. Junior or senior status is required.

For more information, call Kristen at 989-2455.

Mentors wanted

The Perkins Mentoring Program is looking for students to work as mentors.

Mentors help incoming freshman become acquainted with the university environment.

The pay starts at $6 per hour and hours are flexible.

For more information contact Nikki Fitzgerald or Miriam Williams at 989-2664 or stop by Gyte-171.

The Chronicle looking for writers

The Chronicle, PUC's award-winning newspaper is looking for writers to fill vacancies in the news and sports department.

There is no experience necessary and the experience is priceless.

For more information on becoming a writer, call Jason at 989-2547.

Click for a cure

A newly created Web site is donating money for research in bone marrow transplantation for every person that click on their Web site. For more information on City of Hope call 800-260-HOPE.\

Diabetes management classes offered

Saint Margaret Mercy Healthcare Centers is offering diabetes education programs that teach diet, general care and the diabetes process. Diabetes management classes are offered at various sites at morning, afternoon and evening times. Contact Dorothy Klapak, diabetes nurse educator, at 933-2144 or 981-9305, ext. 32144 for more information on dates, times, locations and fees.

Wellness classes offered monthly

Omni 41 Health and Fitness Connection and Saint Margaret Mercy Healthcare Centers is offering "Your Wellness Prescription," a series of health education programs. The programs include: "Nutrition Basics," on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.; "Mind, Body, Spirit and Health," on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.; "Smoking Cessation," on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.; "Preventing a Heart Attack and Managing High Blood Pressure," on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.; "Stress Management," on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.; "How to Start Exercising," on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Enjoy weekends on the farm

The Lake County Parks and Recreation Department is offering residents a chance to check out the historic Buckley Homestead. Staff and volunteers dressed in period clothing are on hand to show you through the Buckley home, the barnyard and some farm animals around the barn. There is also a one-room schoolhouse and a pioneer farm. The historic homestead is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children. For more information on the Buckley Homestead, call 696-8969.

Quote of the week

'To have great poets, there must be great audiences, too.'

Walt Whitman
1819-1892

The Chronicle

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'Harry Potter:' Not just for kids

JENN MCCAMPBELL
Photographer

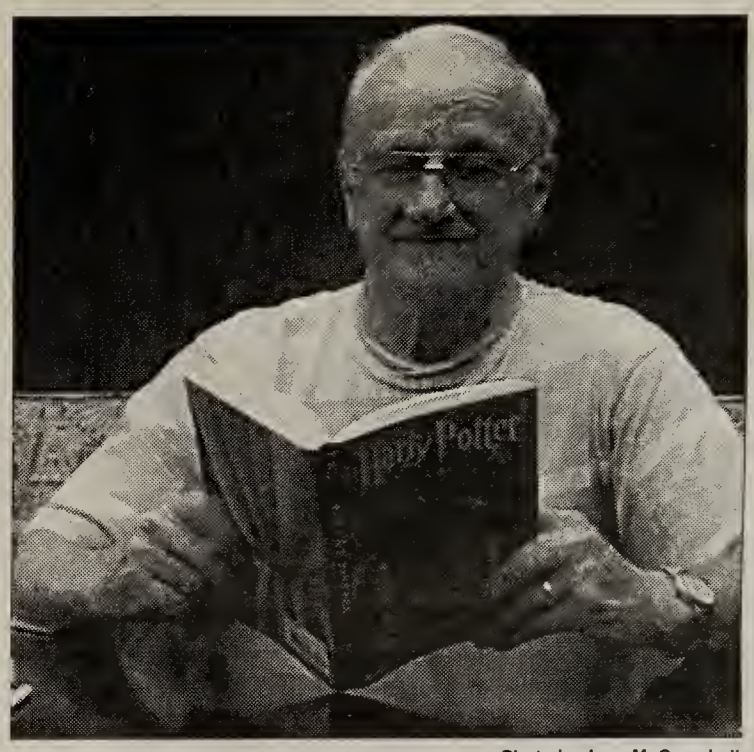

Photo by Jenn McCampbell

Paul Carter, a member of PUC book club, enjoys the first book of the J.K. Rowling series.

While J.K. Rowling's daughter slept in a London cafe, the Harry Potter series came to life. Aspiring writer Rowling's wildest dreams came true. According to Newsweek, her series has already sold more than 35 million copies in three years. This is a seven-book series, with four books already in print and a movie coming out in December 2001.

Scholastic Magazine reports that the script is already complete and the cast is ready to start filming.

This series is about a young wizard named Harry who is studying at Hogswart academy, a boarding school for apprentice wizards and witches. During summer vacation, he stays with the Dursleys. They are a family of muggles, people who do not do magic. His periods of time there are "awful," but irresistibly funny.

This series appeals to children and adults alike.

According to Linda Johnsen, Lake County Public Library children's librarian, more than 50 percent of the people on the waiting list for the Harry Potter books are adults.

"Adults can like this series because Rowling used great characterization and developed a complete new world. The first book developed the stage of the alternative life that we could be a part of and not really know it because we are not magical," Johnsen said.

She also compared their appeal to that of Alice in Wonderland and other adult-loved children's books.

"They appeal mostly because they are fun for everyone to read and it was the right time for this type of book to come out," she added.

The Purdue Alumni Association-Calumet book club, which meets every third Thursday of the month, discussed "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" at their September meeting.

"I was surprised that the vocabulary in this children's book was so difficult, but that could be why adult's like this series so much," Susan Van Til, secretary of the communication and creative arts department, said.

The book club meets at 6 p.m. in Lawshe-333. It is sponsored by Purdue Alumni Association Calumet and is free for anyone who would like to join. Leticia Toma, director of alumni relations, leads the discussion.

"The book club enjoys a variety of books such as mysteries and historical fiction. What makes the group so exciting is that the group gets to pick the books," Toma said.

They vote on the next book to be reviewed at the end of each meeting. The next book will be "Time and Again" by Jack Finney and it will be reviewed on Oct. 19.

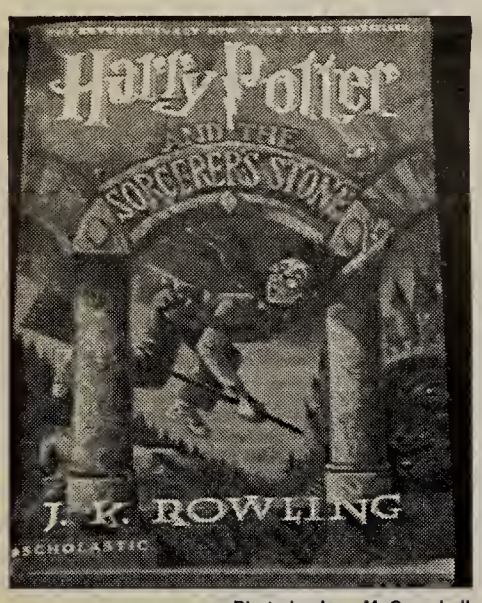

Photo by Jenn McCampbell

"Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone" is the first book in the seven book series written by J.K. Rowling.

Picture Perfect

Photos by Jenn McCampbell, Nicole Ann Mikula

The PUC Photo Club visited Lincoln Park Zoo to test their skills. At, right, a tiger enjoys a meal. Some of the PUC Photo Club members include: (clockwise from top:) Michael D. Stewart, a senior in radio and television; Kristin Harkin, a sophomore in public relations and Jenn McCampbell, a senior in elementary education.

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

PUC police beat 9/19/00 - 9/21/00

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10:20 a.m. A staff member reported receiving a bomb threat by telephone from an unknown male caller at the customer service center. The incident is under investigation by the University Police.

Wednesday, Sept, 20, 11 a.m. A staff member reported twisting his right ankle while he was working at the PUC warehouse. The victim stated his foot slipped off a pallet he was standing on.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m. PUC police assisted Hammond Police with surveillance and an arrest of a suspect wanted in a criminal confinement case. The suspect was observed in the PER building and watched until he exited and left PUC property where Hammond Police Department stopped the suspect on 173rd Street.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:15 p.m. Hammond Police Department dispatch reported receiving a fire alarm at the Riley Child Care Center. The occupants at the center called and advised that they had burned some popcorn in their microwave. The alarm was confirmed false.

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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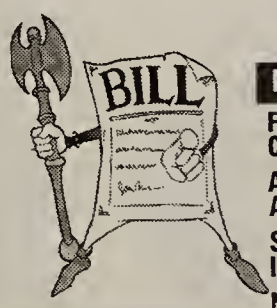

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Banned Books Week deserves to be observed

Banned Books Week was last week. Some books on this list include "Catcher in the Rye" by J. D. Salinger, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, "A Separate Peace" by John Knowles and "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl. Why exactly have these books been banned? Do they contain pornographic pictures? Are they conspiring against the government? No, so what is the problem?

Some school boards have banned books in hope protecting their children from the outside world. In doing so, they are just buying time before their child learns about it from friends or television.

School boards who ban books are essentially stopping the education process by preventing children from learning through different thought processes. It also stops the creativity process, since books can often serve as a source of inspiration. School boards are telling our children what to think, narrowing their mindset and, in a way, brainwashing them.

What about the rights the First Amendment guarantees us? We have the right to free press and free speech, but somehow school boards across America are being allowed to walk all over this, without thinking about the detrimental effects it could have on our children in the future. Remember that children are our future.

Banned Books Week is dedicated to raising the awareness of banned books and to lead our nations' school boards to stop banning books. Some ways that you can become a crusader in this book war include:

- Call or write your local school board and ask them to stop banning books.
- Before elections take place, ask school board candidates how they feel about banned books.
- Encourage your children to read these banned books despite what the school board says.

Perhaps a question school boards need to ask themselves is "What about when these children go to college?" What is going to happen if these children, who have not been exposed to some of the classics, are sitting in their English 104 class someday and the professor makes a comparison to one of these banned books? They will feel totally lost and possibly inadequate to the rest of their peers. Perhaps a student from a higher-class neighborhood comes right here to PUC and has class with students from a lower class neighborhood.

The narrow mindset that has been instilled in them will hinder their ability to interact with other people. How is that going to affect them for the rest of their lives?

Many people would argue that a person could not be well-read without having read most of these books. You don't necessarily have to agree with what is being said in these books, just be aware that it is out there and someone else may enjoy and even agree with that view point. Free your mind. Cuddle up with a good banned book.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

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The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.

The People Speak

Question of the Week: What book has made the greatest impact in your life? What did you learn from it?

Roberta Dorsey
senior, early childhood development
"The Bible, God has laws and principals we need to follow"

Alex Jovanovich
sophomore, undecided
"The Natural, it taught me to be true to what I love, to be true to the game."

Christine Saladino
junior, finance
"Once and Future King, these books got me interested in reading more often."

Brian Gerer
senior, mechanical engineering
"The Little Engine That Could, it taught me that I could do anything and achieve anything."

Adam Hoffman
sophomore, management
"The Bible, because it has an impact on my day to day life."

Marsha Ester
junior, elementary education
"Philippians, because of what it is about. It is motivational. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. *Philippians 4:13*"

Racist jokes subtly perpetuate hatred, pain within society

U-WIRE

Racism is a tricky little devil.

More and more I'm realizing how pervasive it is in our community, and how oblivious most people are to the ways they contribute to a society that only pretends to be integrated.

It's a hard problem to combat, mainly because most racist people don't even realize they're racist. That's what makes them so dangerous.

There are very few clear-cut villains. It's not like in the cartoons, where the bad guy always wears black and ominously strokes his handlebar mustache.

Think about it. A character such as Matt Hale, Bradley grad and founder of the World Church of the Creator, may be vile and disgusting to us, but at least almost everyone can agree about that.

When Hale starts spouting off his hate-filled, narrow-minded white supremacist propaganda, very few people convert to the Aryan cause and join him in his crusade.

A more popular reaction is outrage and repulsion. It actually bonds people who might not otherwise join together against an easily identifiable villain. Hale's approach actually strengthens his opposition.

Ironically, Brother Jim elicits the same kind of reaction from people. We all know Brother Jim as the lovable Fundamentalist Christian who stands on the sidewalk outside the GCC, tossing insults at all the whores and atheists passing by in the hopes of opening our eyes to our sinful ways.

Judging by the crowds of angry hecklers that inevitably form around him, I doubt his in-your-face, judgmental approach has won many converts.

Both of these men are easily identifiable bigots, and they are both examples of the hypocrisy of religion. Their actions draw automatic negative reactions from almost everyone.

But subtle racism and bigotry are far more harmful than the caricatured, ridiculous variety displayed by supervillains like Hale and Brother Jim.

That is the way bigotry moves through society, spreading like an undetectable disease.

Probably one of the most obvious examples of racism integrated into our society is racist jokes.

Whenever people tell racist jokes, they are perpetuating racism. Period.

Almost every time people attempt to tell a racist joke around me, they defend their actions by saying, "I'm not a racist. I have a lot of black friends."

What do they expect me to say? "Oh, that changes everything! If you have black friends, you're entitled to tell any joke you want!"

If you really do have black friends, why would you disrespect them by telling jokes you would never tell in their presence?

An acquaintance once told me it was OK for him to tell a totally rude, prejudiced joke because he didn't make it up.

The Nazis justified their behavior the same way: "These orders didn't come from us. We're just carrying them out."

This line of reasoning is used all the time in our society to place distance between the originator of evil and the people who carry it out. We're just doing our jobs. We're just following orders. We're just telling a joke.

Subtle racism remains the norm in many parts of society. The media is responsible for presenting caricatured versions of minorities, and the insults barely even register with us.

Many of us have received racist messages from our parents and our communities without even realizing it.

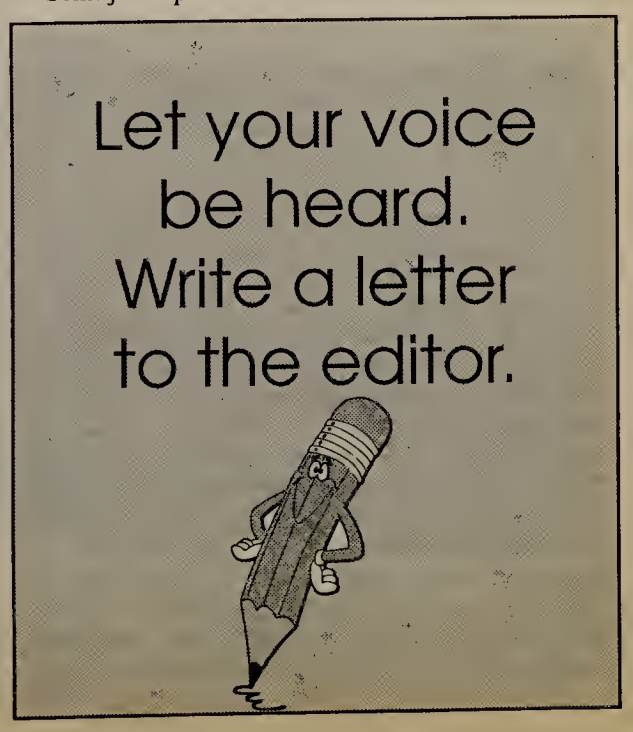
I grew up in a conservative Catholic community that extolled equal rights under God for everyone. But in the eighth grade, when I started dating a black friend, I became the butt of cruel jokes for the rest of the year.

That community's tolerance existed only in theory.

Not all racists wear swastikas on their shirts and white laces in their boots.

Not all bigots make it their lifelong goal to convert people to their way of thinking, and not all racists make up offensive jokes.

Some just repeat them.



World of supernatural runs wild with campus gamers guild

ADAM R. RAVEN
Staff Writer

A driving world of dragons, wizards and lavish nightmares of vampires and wraiths dart through fantastic realms of the imagination. These realms of fantasy call to play characters of barbarians, nobles or blood sucking creatures to battle forces unparalleled to our own world.

This is the intense imagination of role-playing where as a group of people are acting as characters in the script created by the Dungeon Master (DM) or Game Master (GM), who leads the cast into a world where he creates the adventures and misfortunes on the group. Also needing a place for the world of fantasy to thrive in should be desired. All of these measures are fulfilled with the re-establishment of the Purdue University Gamers Guild (PUGG).

Will Race, a freshman majoring in HTM, revived the once active organization to give himself and other "gamers" a place to role-play on campus.

The Gamers Guild is an organization for students who enjoy role-playing, such as Dungeons & Dragons and White Wolf games (Mage: The Ascension and Vampire: The Masquerade). The organization is for those of all gaming skill levels, and for those who want to learn how to play.

"The interest in creating PUGG is another example of the diversity on this campus. Will has tremendous desire and enthusiasm to make PUGG one of the more prominent and active student organizations at PUC," Dave Fanno, adviser to PUGG, said.

"A lot of people think of gaming as evil. That's not usually true, and that's definitely not true for us. Most of the group is fairly new to the gaming systems, but it's still a lot of fun," Race said.

"Novices are encouraged to join. Students who have experience can help teach those with less experience or no experience," Fanno said.

Photo by Jade Lee Culberson

In a game of Dungeons & Dragons lead by Will Race (center), a freshman majoring in accounting; Wesley Kopp (left), a freshman majoring in accounting, rolls for his turn as Larry Evans, a senior majoring in organizational communication, plans his next move.

For more information:

PUGG meets:
every Monday in SFLC-305
and
Fridays in Gyte-108
from 6:30-11 p.m.

Tournaments will be announced

"The purpose of the organization is to give role-players access to a database of other players and resources. It also allows students of different cultures a chance to interact in a fun and safe environment," Fanno added.

"Role-playing is a good way to meet new people and a creative way to get away from studies and everything. Plus, you get to be characters you'd never get to be in everyday life, because they're fictional characters," Jen Cutler, a junior majoring in philosophy, said.

PUGG meets on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in SFLC-305 and on Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Gyte-108. Tournaments will be held on select Saturdays, with times and locations to be announced. Race said the group plans to add at least one more time slot to fit the players' schedules.

Race leads a chronicle, a continuing story that picks up where it left off the session before, of Dungeons & Dragons and additional games are being chosen by the group, Race said.

CPU forms organization for progress, knowledge

LORRELL D. KILPATRICK
Staff Writer

A new group adds to the number of more than 50 student organizations this semester. Computing Professionals United aims to help computer information system majors and non-majors gain more knowledge about recent information and practices in the computing field. Their goals include nation wide networking opportunities via national organization affiliates. They are also striving to supply students with cutting edge technology information, mentoring opportunities and a chance to make their respective departments excel and enhance their reputation.

"This will be the most progressive and influential group at PUC," Chris Lennertz, president of CPU, said.

Through CPU, members can look forward to learning about their career options before they select a specialization and enhance their resume through affiliations and certifications.

"A club like CPU would be beneficial to students for networking capabilities. Also, technological experience before graduating would be a great resume builder," said Chris Fointino, a junior majoring in information systems and computer programming.

Getting a jump-start on the high expectations they have set for themselves, this excited group already has a functioning web site, which details all of the advantages and opportunities that come with joining this organization.

"Some of CPU's future endeavors include forming a technology camp for disadvantaged children and visits to senior citizens homes during which we will teach and encourage the residents to become involved in the E-based economy," Lennertz said.

"Students can learn the principles of proven technology and gain knowledge about new technology on the horizon,"
Bryan Robles,
senior majoring in
mechanical engineering

They also want to involve under-represented students, such as young females, to become involved in the E-based economy and to correspond with local businesses to expand their economic potential via technology.

"Students can learn the principles of proven technology and gain knowledge about new technology on the horizon," Bryan Robles, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, said.

"We hope to raise enough funds to send students to corporate and technological conventions and seminars. We also hope to bring influential speakers in and provide our own talented professors with the opportunity to present papers and hold discussions on cutting edge issues," Lennertz said.

The CPU club's executive counsel will meet on Oct. 3, with the time to be announced.

For more information, contact Chris Lennertz or CPU's advisor, Barbara Nicolai of the Information Systems and Computer Programming Department, at 989-2145.

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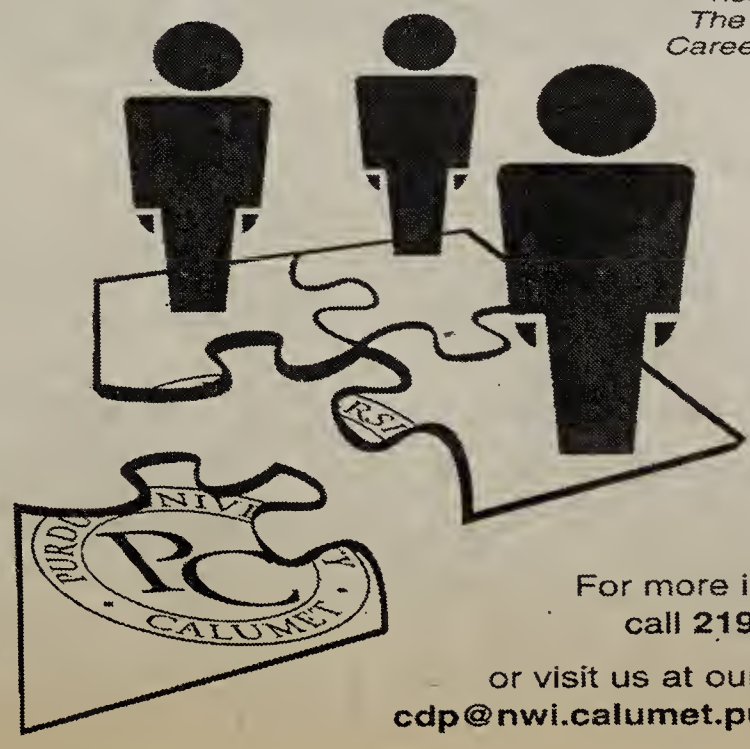
The Office of
Career Services



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'Urban' sequel fails to frighten

JIM SABIN
Staff Writer

Let us all hope that *final* actually means final when discussing the "Urban Legends" franchise, for this misdirected sequel to the 1998 original is a mess from beginning to end. Actually, I wonder if this picture actually deserves to be referred to as a sequel, considering it has *nothing* to do with the first installment. A minor detail, I suppose, for the producers of this monstrosity. If anything, based on its *plot*, and I use that term lightly, it should be called "Scream 3: Again," or something to that effect. You see, this film is a movie within a movie (a la "Scream's" "Stab"), where a student film crew gets picked off one by one, while they in turn are filming a movie.

The film's opening scene begins, what turns out to be 90 or so minutes of head-scratching, with all those unfortunate enough to be in attendance eligible to participate. In these first few moments of cinema, a nameless woman is drugged in a bar. She later awakens, apparently, in the Unibomber's summer home and discovers that a couple of her organs have been removed by the local psycho who happens to be taking Intro to Surgery classes. What soon follows is not worthy of print or of the label *entertainment.*

The picture then proceeds as if these first few minutes never took place. Throughout the film there is never a single word uttered mentioning the woman or the horrific events surrounding her end. Oh well, who wants plot points to come together these days anyway?

Jennifer Morrison, plays Amy, the director of a student horror film about urban legends.

Another thing that made me go hmm ... was the question of what has happened to originality in today's horror films. This movie is one cliché after another. All of the characters in "Final Cut" take turns blurting out the standard "We're gonna die!" lines as they each take turns marching into the fray. Joey Lawrence, of "Blossom" fame, is one such lemming. For those of you hoping Joey may spew one final "Whoa!" before punching out, your luck ran out when you were talked into buying your ticket.

Naturally, the killer possesses an amazing physic ability and is able to predict exactly where everyone is going to be every step of the way. You know, I often stop to wonder if these mass murders ever stop to consider career changes. It's painfully obvious to me that a 1-900 number would be right up their alley.

And of course there is the "Thank God that it was only a dream!" sequence, and the far-too-many-to-list false scares, none of which caused so much as a flinch out of your's truly. Not to get too off track, but what ever happened to notion of horror movies actually being scary?

Loretta Devine, right, stars as a university security guard keeping watch with Jennifer Morrison in "Urban Legends: Final Cut."

Movie	Urban Legends: Final Cut
Actor	Jennifer Morrison
Rating	2 of 10

The unimaginative, unbelievably not frightening madness continues as director John Ottman (not that you'll ever see this man's name again) steals from other contemporary horror flicks including "The Blair Witch Project" when in one scene a number of frightened students race through the woods fleeing the masked Grim Reaper, while their hand-held cameras catch every moment of it on tape.

The end of the film brings no mercy upon those who were foolish enough to stay to see it. During the climax (cough, cough), the killer's reveals his/her/their reason for gutting nearly all of the drama club. That reason is so incredibly ridiculous that it leads your mind to the ultimate head-scratcher- How on Earth, do films such as this one ever get made? I haven't done my research on this, but I'm betting whoever put down the millions for this disaster did the same for "Rocky and Bullwinkle."

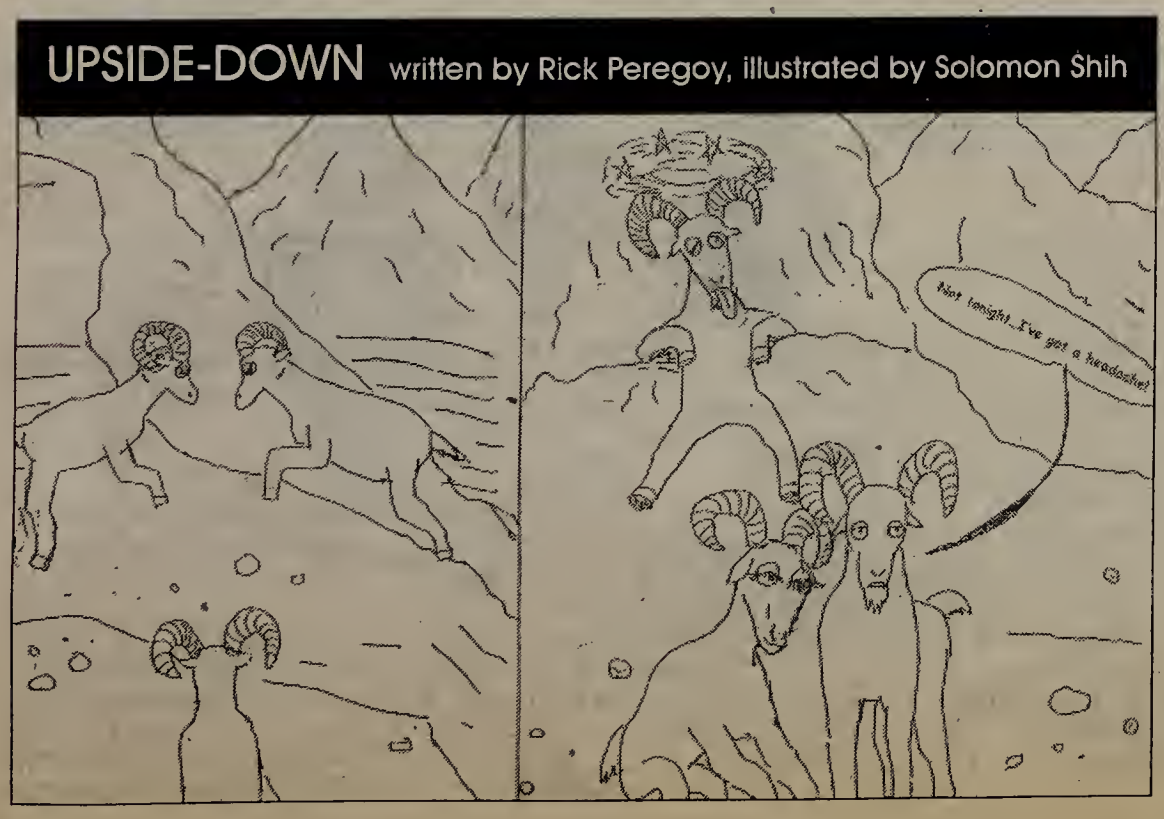
In a sick way, I would recommend that you see how pathetic this picture is firsthand, but I can't bring myself to do it. I fear that the studio may see the box office receipts and immediately put "Urban Legends 3: I Still Know the Final Cut" into production.

If you want to see a scary movie, see the scariest one of all, "The Exorcist." Mind you, I'm not talking about this year's despicable marketing attempt known as the director's cut, which contains additional footage that actually tarnishes the film's greatness. No, I suggest you save the $10 you would have wasted on "Urban Legends," and go rent the 1973 original. Then you will be able to experience a horror movie done right, if not perfectly. Perhaps, someone should have suggested the same to the makers of "Final Cut" before they sent their project into production.

Osborne's latest reveals eclectic personality

U-WIRE

With a sensual voice and an alluring sound, Joan Osborne's newest album, "Righteous Love," is a refreshing change from today's copycat bands. It is difficult to categorize Osborne's music, which is one of the reasons it is so appealing. She brings so many different elements to her music that each song has its own personality with her lyrics, sounds, rhythm and mystery.



Although the songs on the album contain some similarities to her 1995 hit "One of Us," Osborne has definitely created a powerful, new style that will not fail to intrigue almost anyone.

Osborne brings many music styles together that normally stand alone. With hints of various Asian influences, religious lyrics, rhythm and blues combined with her strong and somewhat raspy voice, Osborne's music is never tiring.

Since her last album, Osborne has traveled and learned about numerous kinds of other music. These experiences certainly influenced her creation of "Righteous Love."

She studied Indian classical and qawwali music, wrote with Cuban artists and played the Karl Marx Theater in Havana.

In addition, Osborne performed for the Dalai Lama, recorded with the traditional Irish group the Chieftains, and sang with Luciano Pavorotti and Bob Dylan.

Some of the new songs have a mysterious, chanting quality to them. "Safety in Numbers" is possibly the best song on "Righteous Love" because of this particular sound.

Sensuality lies in every beat, drawing you in and never letting go. The secretive tone compliments the lyrics: "There is safety in numbers/In numbers my friend/You will find me well protected/When you come around today."

"Love is Alive" is a spirited sound with hopeful lyrics: "My heart is on fire/My soul's like a wheel that's turning/My love is alive/My love is alive."

This song provides a good contrast to a song like "Hurricane" with some angry undertones:

"I am a genius/I am a diamond/My pretty tongue gives you freezer burn/I think above you in three dimensions/Come in here, you can never return."

Although each theme of "Righteous Love" deals with relationships. Osborne is doing one of three things in the album: Making a statement of independence, giving someone a warning or celebrating love.

Dillinger Museum fascinates crime buffs

NICOLE ANN MIKULA
Photographer

Are you tired of the mundane? Do you find crime, blood, guns, betrayal, and death adventurous? Do you want to find a deeper meaning to historic past events? On the other hand, maybe you might just enjoy a little history. No matter your reasoning, you should stop by and tour the John Dillinger Museum. The museum is located inside the new Lake County Convention and Visitor's Bureau at the intersection of I-80/94 and Kennedy Avenue south.

The John Dillinger Museum is a hands on historical adventure filled with tons of information. Inside the museum, you will find wax replicas of famous historical figures and Dillinger's getaway car. Artifacts inside the museum include; Dillinger's death mask, his blood stained pants that he was shot in, and the famous wooden gun he used to escape from Crown Point Jail plus much more.

The John Dillinger Museum also contains a lot of reading materials. There are newspaper clippings from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. There are official documents including: Dillinger's most wanted poster, his FBI record, and his medical records that provides evidence that he tried plastic surgery to baffle police and FBI agents.

The museum also contains computer and video work stations. You can interact with the environment, by identifying criminals, stating your opinion, and learning about the FBI fingerprinting lab. The museum is filled with video clips of the depression, the World's Fair, and scenes from Matthan Melodrama the last film Dillinger saw before his death.

The John Dillinger Museum also tells a tragic story about a young man destined for a life of crime. As you enter the museum, you are transformed back into the Depression era when Dillinger was a boy. His father was a farmer, who struggled to put food on his family's plates in the small town of Mooresville, Ind. Restless, Dillinger committed his first crime with fellow juvenile Ed Singleton. Singleton and Dillinger robbed the local grocery store and escaped with the money, but Dillinger could not escape his guilt. The next day Dillinger returned the money to the store and apologized. However, this was not good enough; Dillinger was sentenced harshly. He then spent nine years in prison where his life turned tough. No longer a young man, he was released with a grudge on his shoulder. I believe Dillinger felt a lot of contempt toward the system that was supposed to bring him justice.

Place	The John Dillinger Museum
Cost	$4 for adults
Rating	7 of 10

After Dillinger's release from prison he went on a massive crime spree, robbing banks all over the Midwest. Suprisingly Dillinger's spree only lasts a short nine months. In this short time Dillinger is able to elude police and escape from Crown Point Jail using a wooden gun covered with shoe polish. Betrayed by the woman in red, Dillinger is spotted by the FBI. They gun him down in an alley just outside of the Biograph Theatre in Chicago. This is a tragic end to a sick and confused life.

The museum does not honor criminals, but it tries to explain that sometimes things just go wrong. People are just people, in real terms. Becky Fox, database manager and Purdue Alumna said, "While the museum has the name of an infamous criminal, it focuses on history. Through his eyes, you see the story of flight, prohibition, and the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. His name was used partly for marketing technique. Like it or not it catches your attention, that is the point of marketing."

The museum also teaches us that crime does not pay. Historically speaking, Dillinger was literally an asset to Edgar J. Hoover's FBI. He made bank robbery a federal offence and helped bring about the further usage of fingerprinting in criminal investigations. Dillinger's quick getaway cars and powerful ammunition required police to update their own equipment.

Photo by Nicole Ann Mikula

Among other memorabilia, wanted posters are prominently displayed at the John Dillinger Museum.

A new breed of criminal was evolving, but at the same time a new FBI and police department were keeping up and eventually surpassing the gang.

Without criminals there would be no criminal justice system. Without Dillinger the system would not have evolved as easily and as quickly into what it is today.

The John Dillinger Museum is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a $4 fee for adults; seniors and children are $3. The museum bridges generation gaps, allowing a look into past times.

"I believe the museum helps older people remember how life used to be. Kids today are not exposed to history. However, I feel kids are intrigued on how one reacted with out the use of technology. For example, how did they function without fingerprints? For myself, my brother, parents, and grandparents it has provided an intriguing discussion starter," said Fox.

So if you go see the John Dillinger Museum, bring an open mind and maybe your grandparents. The whole family will have something to talk about for days. Want to find out more? Check it out for yourselves!

'The Exorcist' still chills

RICK PEREGOY
Entertainment Editor

Calling The Exorcist intense would be like calling the bubonic plague a virus. After one truly incredibly fascinating three second scene you could have heard a pin drop in the half-filled cinema. This lead me to assume that it is difficult to make a sound while your mouth hangs gaped and your eyes are bugged to their fullest capacity as you realize the extent of the amount of consternation that has managed to wallop you over the head in such a short period of time. The scene involves a human being taking on an insect characteristic that is remarkably breathtaking.

While being billed as one of the scariest movies ever made following its almost thirty year re-release, I found The Exorcist to be more amazing than scary.

Movie	The Exorcist
Actor	Linda Blair
Rating	10 of 10

Linda Blair plays "Regan" a polite and likable kid who because of a mystic recently uncovered artifact becomes possessed by demons and by the Devil himself, much to the dismay of her loving mother played masterfully by Ellen Burstyn.

As the film begins, "The Exorcist" played by Max Von Sydow is on an archeological dig in a desert in Iran. His crew uncovers a relic that has undisclosed powers of the mystically dark side of the spiritual realm.

Writer William Peter Blaty and director William Friedkin team up to keep these spiritual powers as abstract as possible. There are transitions in this story that are totally unaccounted for. Sometimes when telling a story, the overuse of transitions can actually cause the failure of its premise to be able to strike such a large target audience.

By leaving out key pieces of the puzzle this brilliant team allows the viewer to fill in the blanks with his or her own logical spiritual links and not only does it work, but it works on a grand scale.

The once cutting edge special effects still stand the test of time. There are twelve minutes of additional footage added to the original version. The sound has been digitally enhanced and helps to contribute to why you will be teater-tawtering on the edge of your seat.

Not only is this a must see film, it is a must see at the cinema film. One should not compromise the films sound or effects by waiting for a rental version.

Linda Blair stars in the rerelease of the 1973 horror classic "The Exorcist."

CuriouStuff

In the desert southwest is an ambitious wasp called the "Tarantula Hawk". The tarantula hawk spies a tarantula, stings it with its paralyzing venom, drags the spider back to a pre-made burrow, chews a hole into its abdominal cavity where it then lays it eggs. As the larvae begin to hatch, they tend to snack on the tarantula's less vital organs as they progress to the heart and lungs, ultimately the outside world where they will continue the trend against the tarantula's wishes.

Source: /html/twasp.html

Grantz rantz

Our bad news Bears

BOB GRANTZ
Sports Editor

Someone should probably go and wake our hibernating Bears before they ruin their whole season.

After four games the Bears are 0-4. They are winless, zip, zilch, nada, a big goose egg in the win column. Including the 41-0 whipping that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers handed them.

So why is this we ask? Could it be that our players just aren't focusing on the games? Could be.

Quarterback Cade McNown has been busy stealing Playboy model Heather Kozar away from his friend Tim Couch, quarterback of the Cleveland Browns. It is even rumored that McNown sent his Porsche out to California for her to use.

Looks like McNown is too busy to strategize on how not to lose a football game. He has a Playboy playmate to chase after. When does he have time to practice?

Then there is always Curtis Enis. This kid could not hold onto the ball unless he had super glue. He still may lose the ball in that case.

The lack of a running game is killing the Bears. They have to pass or else they have to try their shaky running game. Other teams in the league know this. These teams set up their defense to protect against the pass and the Bears are sunk.

There were five turnovers in the game against Detroit on Sept. 24. That could also be why the Bears can not win; they keep losing the ball.

That would make it tough to score, not having the ball and all.

Injuries are not helping the Bears either. Bobby Engram, one of the Bears most predominant receivers, is out for the season with a knee injury. He got injured in the Sept. 17 game against the New York Giants.

The injury was not even due to a tackle; he just went to take off down field and his foot stayed planted instead of coming with the rest of his leg. He tore a ligament in his knee in the process.

Some people would say that the solution to the Bears problem would be to get rid of the McCaskey/Halas leadership in the front office.

Good plan, maybe we could get someone that is willing to spend a little dough on the team.

Are the gods of football frowning down on the Bears? Is there some higher power holding the Bears down? I don't know for sure but with the way the team is playing, that argument could be made.

Personally I think it is just the universe getting revenge on the Bears for getting rid of Ditka.

There are still games left in the season so they still have time. I know that sounds like an awfully positive thing to say about such a dismal-looking season, but you can't count anyone out.

Not even the Bears.

We'll see what the future holds for the Bears. They have to play the Buccaneers, Lions and Vikings one more time. More losses are destined to come.

Questions or comments? Contact Bob Grantz at (219) 989-2547 or grantzrj@axp.calumet.purdue.edu.

Fitness

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

■ Astrological charts may predict an individual's personal wellness

BOB GRANTZ
Sports Editor

Most people have heard of hay fever season and cold season, but thyroid gland season? The astrological sign that is in effect at any particular time may affect a person's health.

Astrology is a cyclical, mathematical process dealing with a person's individuality. Astrology can be used to tell a person what the future will most likely hold for them.

The signs of the zodiac are all responsible for specific areas of the body. For instance the sign of Taurus (April 20 to May 20) controls the throat, thyroid gland, tonsils and neck. During the time span of Taurus, all people are more likely to have problems with those areas.

Astrologer Ted Zagar explained the correlation between astrological signs and personal wellness in a seminar Wednesday Sept. 27. Each area that a sign affects is influenced by the positions of the sun, moon and planets.

Zagar first became involved in astrology in 1969 because it gave him a new sense of awareness.

"Astrology allows you to wake up and see the mechanism of things," Zagar said.

Zagar is a wellness astrology columnist for the Mountain Astrologer, an astrological publication. He is also the author of "The Vegetarian Astrologer," a column in the Vegetarian Times.

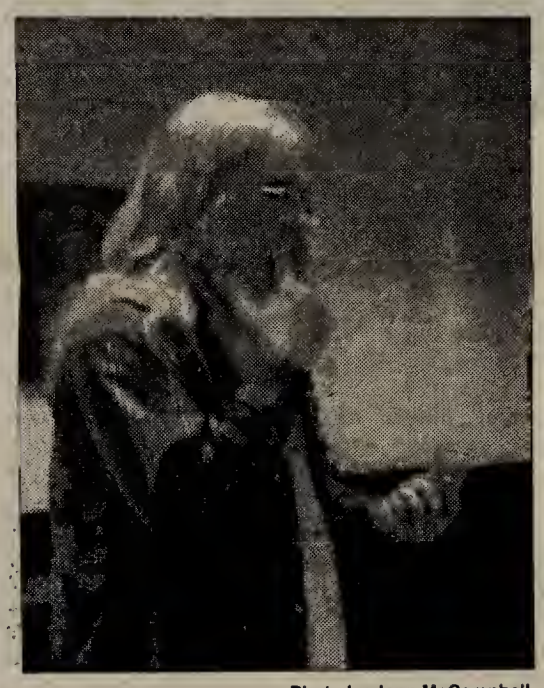


Photo by Jenn McCampbell

Astrologer Ted Zagar demonstrates mint oil as an oral pain relief.

Even though astrology can predict changes in personal wellness, it is not taken seriously by mainstream culture. Zagar sees this lack of consideration as being due to what kind of exposure people have to astrology.

"The majority of people are exposed to limited astrological reading, like you would find in a daily newspaper. They do not get their entire chart involving the sun, moon and other eight planets. This limitation causes them to not take astrology seriously," Zagar said.

Astrology can also be used to determine what foods should and should not be included in someone's diet. If you are an Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18), you should include foods with carotene, such as carrots. Aquarius rules the eyes, so Aquarians are more prone to eye problems.

Along with astrology, the seminar discussed herbal remedies for certain ailments. If you have a toothache, dab a little mint oil on it. It will work a lot faster than Ambesol. Lavender oil is good for many things such as a topical pain reliever. Next time you get bitten by a mosquito, put a little lavender oil on it and the itch will go away.

John Bobalik, director of the Total Fitness Center, believes that it is good to offer a variety of fitness options.

"This seminar offers something different to get people to take care of themselves. The variety helps being in more people and keep people interested in keeping in shape," Bobalik said.

The seminar brought a new area of interest to Ron Hartke, a resident of Calumet City, Ill.

"I enjoyed the seminar; it was holistic. It will prompt me to look into that area of astrology now," Hartke said.

If you are interested in having a full astrological chart done for yourself, you can contact the Association of Research and Enlightenment at 1-800-723-1112. You can also go to http://kelifox.astrology.com and have a chart made up over the Intemet.

For more information about the world of astrology or future seminars by Ted Zagar e-mail him at pandeva@aol.com.

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